PEABODY MUSEUM

Salem, Massachusetts

Circular of Information

1944

The Museum is open every week-day from 9 A.M. *to* 5 P.M., *and on Sundays and holidays from* 2 *to* 5 P.M.

Free to All

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1944

THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF SALEM, under the title of "The Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science," but changed by act of Legislature in 1915 to the simpler and more fitting one of "Peabody Museum of Salem," was founded in 1867 for the "promotion of science and useful knowledge in the County of Essex," by George Peabody, who was born in South Danvers, now Peabody, Essex County, Massachusetts, 18 February 1795, and died in London 8 November 1869.

The East India Marine Hall, erected in 1824, was purchased and refitted, and the Museum of the East India Marine Society (begun in 1799) and the Natural History Collections of the Essex Institute (begun in 1834) were received by the Trustees as permanent deposits and placed therein. To these have been added many valuable collections especially in the Marine and Ethnology departments and as complete a series of Natural History specimens from Essex County as can be found for any similar geographical area in the United States.

The institution is for the benefit of the residents of the more remote portions of Essex County as well as those in the immediate vicinity of Salem, although under the trust the Museum must be in Salem, and the work largely carried on there.

The collections may be summarized as follows:

Entrance Corridor (1)

Recent accessions, loan collections, Liverpool ware, and objects illustrating the natural history of whales and the whaling industry. This corridor leads to a stair hall (2) in which are exhibited silhouettes, scrimshaw work, portraits, and the silver service of the U. S. cruiser *Salem*.

Marine Room (3, at left of stair hall)

Models and paintings of American sailing vessels, and exhibitions relating to various aspects of maritime history.

John Robinson Hall (4, at right of stair hall)

Portraits of Salem merchants and master-mariners, and models of various American naval and merchant vessels.

Academy Hall Corridor (5, at end of stair hall)

Nautical instruments, tools of the shipwright, cooper, rigger and sailmaker, weapons, flags, lighting devices, and objects associated with a sailor's life.

Room 6

Paintings of Chinese ports and portraits and life-sized figures of East Indian merchants.

Room 7

Mammals of Essex County and exhibitions showing the uses made of the American Bison, Hawkesbill Turtle, and Porcupine by primitive and civilized peoples.

Room 8

Exhibitions illustrating the economic importance of the Ostrich, comparison of old and new methods of bird taxidermy, birds as a source of literary inspiration, and the evolution and placticity of certain kinds of fowls under domestication.

Room 9

The marine invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, fishes, and some of the birds of Essex County.

Room 10

The birds of Essex County and an exhibition of Audubon Plates, selected from the Museum's complete copy of the original edition.

East India Marine Hall (11)

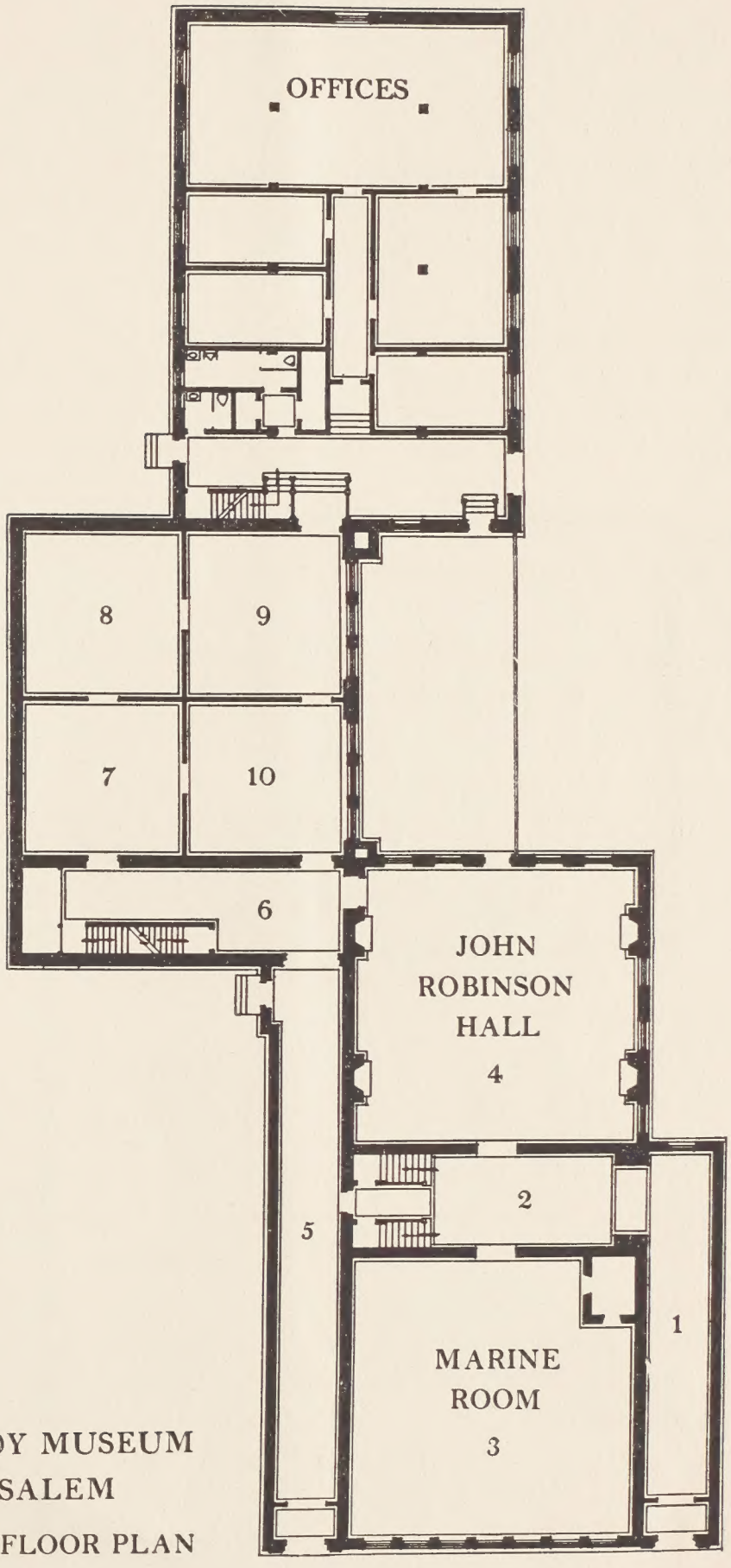
This hall, recently restored, was the original meeting room of the East India Marine Society and contained their collections. It now contains ships' figure-heads, miniatures and portraits, ship pictures, and the Bowditch and Bentley collections, together with some ethnological objects which belonged to the East India Marine Society.

East Hall (12)

Ethnological collections, arranged by islands, illustrating the utensils, implements of war, articles of dress, religion, art, etc., of the natives of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia. In the gallery are the collections from Indonesia, and temporary exhibitions of the cultures of other primitive peoples.

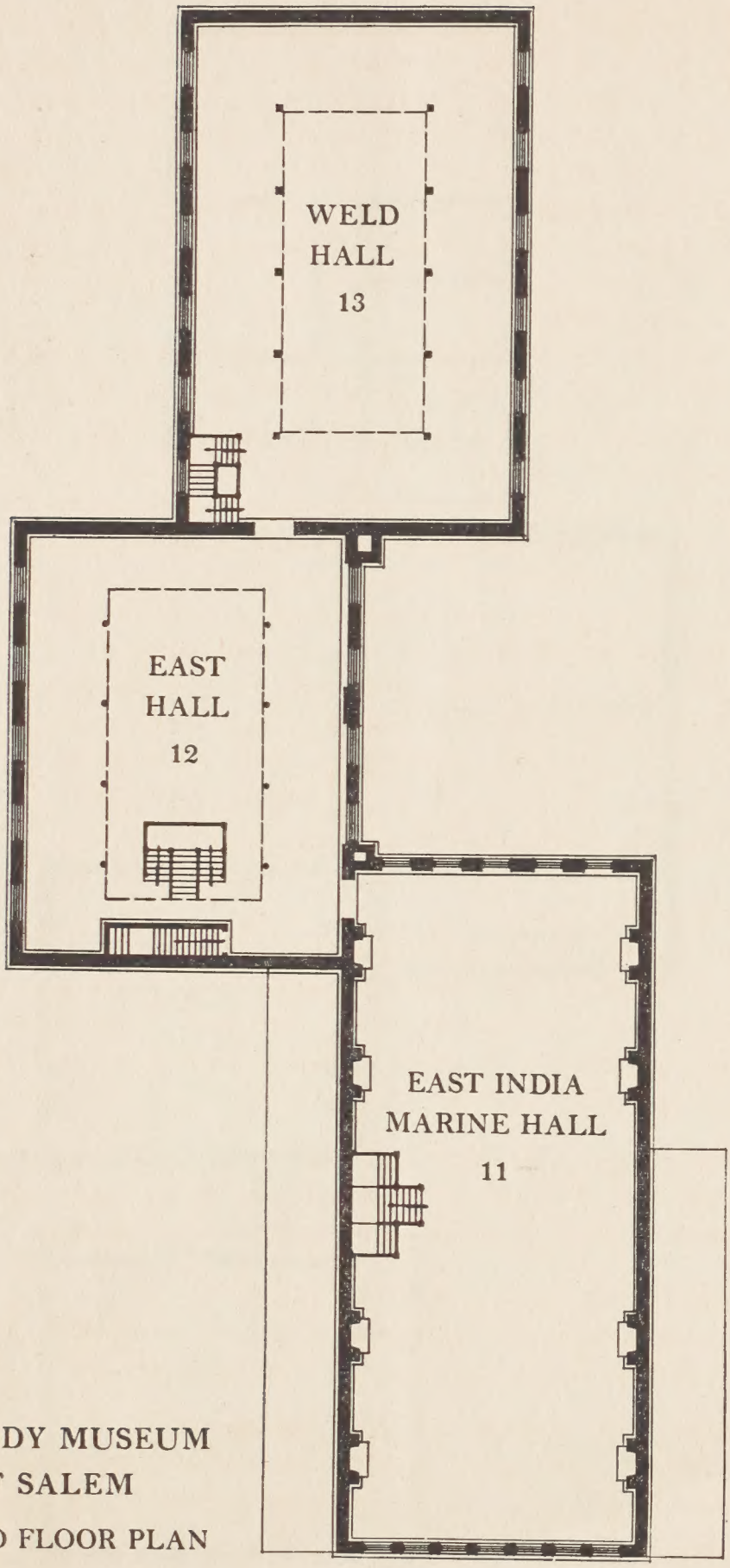
Weld Hall (13)

Temporarily closed because of the war. Japanese ethnological collection illustrating the people, customs, domestic and religious life of old Japan. In the gallery are ethnological collections from China, Siam, India, Tibet and Korea. The art of these countries may be seen in the Museum of Fine Arts, Huntington Avenue, Boston.



PEABODY MUSEUM
OF SALEM

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



PEABODY MUSEUM
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Publications of the Museum may be obtained from the constable, who will also direct visitors where any particular collection may be found. Further information in regards to objects or collections may be obtained from a curator of the Museum. There is no fee whatever for any assistance which may be rendered. The offices are closed on Saturdays and Sundays and holidays.

Peabody Museum of Salem

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* On leave in the Armed Forces.

In answer to numerous inquiries: The Essex Institute (132 Essex Street) has a valuable collection of objects relating to the early history of New England, open free to the public daily except Sunday, and an excellent library on local history, genealogy, art, commercial marine, China, etc.